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SEP 05 2001

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9 MS. BELL: Good evening. I'm not a
10 politician, I'm here as a parent. I have lived in
11 Las Vegas or the Las Vegas Valley since 1987. First
12 time I visited Yucca Mountain was in 1993. I took a
13 group of my students out there just for educational
14 purposes. I went again after tracking it, on August
15 the 1st of 2001 this year. I read extensively. I
16 didn't walk in just blindly. I read materials, I
17 studied the materials, I went to the center, and I
18 spoke to people, so when I walked in, I posed
19 questions, expecting some concrete answers, and I have
20 to say I was impressed.

21 I came back home, I spoke with my sons. I
22 really value their opinion. I asked them what I -- I
23 told them what I had seen and asked them what they
24 thought, and I wanted their honest opinion, and they
25 said, "Well, how do you feel," and I said I really

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1 truly believe in my heart that with the problems we
2 have in society today, I don't look 10,000 years ahead.
3 I look at today. I look at cancer. I look at heart
4 disease. I look at lung disease, at emphysema,

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5 numerous of which I'm plagued with. I don't worry
6 about what's going to happen 10,000 years now. I am
7 worried about society today. I'm worried about the
8 carcinogens that are plaguing us in the air through
9 pollution, whether it be through water, by air. There
10 are countless ways of being contaminated and getting
11 into it our system. I read about the leukemia in
12 Fallon, which is heartbreaking. I have read about the
13 cancer that downwinders got back in 1952, due to the
14 above-ground testing. Then it started again
15 underground, and I empathize with everybody. I, I
16 can't emphasize how sorry I feel for them.

17 But I think that the thing that I'm worried
18 about right now is that when I look at 34 states having
19 waste stored above ground, I -- and then I hear our
20 congressional speakers speak tonight, emphasizing the
21 dangers of this waste being above ground, and yet at
22 the same time, saying, keep it in your backyard, we
23 don't want it in ours, none of us want it in our
24 backyard. Whether it's in Texas, in Nevada, or in
25 Washington. I would be lying if I said dump it in my

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1 backyard. I don't want it, but the fact remains that

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2 if it's going to come, I have to think realistically
3 and objectively. I try not to be emotional, because
4 I'm thinking of my family as well. My feeling is if
5 it's going to come and I have no control over it, then
6 let's find the proper way to find the safety
7 transportation to bring it and transport it and bury it
8 1,000 feet underground. I worry about another
9 Chernobyl incidence. I worry about an explosion. I
10 worry about sabotage, and for this reason, I do support
11 burying it 1,000 feet underground because --
12 (APPLAUSE)
13 Because I don't think we have anything to
14 worry 10,000 years from now. And I'd rather have it in
15 a completely controlled environment, and since Yucca is
16 the only site that's being evaluated currently, I have
17 also seen the scientific intelligence, that's really
18 quite transparent out there. I think we need to
19 consider really going for compensation. The nuclear
20 waste is not going away. It is going to continue for
21 many years. We talk about progress, but what comes
22 with progress? More nuclear waste, more growth, and
23 more need for electricity. Therefore, after doing my
24 own personal research, as a parent, I'm for it. Thank you.